



General Assembly

January Session, 2009

Proposed Bill No. 636

LCO No. 1738

Referred to Committee on Human Services

Introduced by:

SEN. HARP, 10th Dist.

REP. WALKER, 93rd Dist.

REP. DILLON, 92nd Dist.

***AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESUMPTION OF INNOCENCE AND
PRESERVATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS IN PROCEEDINGS
ALLEGING CHILD ABUSE OR NEGLECT BY A PARENT OR
GUARDIAN.***

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 That chapter 319a of the general statutes be amended to: (1) institute
2 a presumption of a parent's or guardian's innocence in any proceeding
3 alleging child abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian; (2) require
4 the petitioner to prove a parent's or guardian's guilt beyond a
5 reasonable doubt in any proceeding alleging child abuse or neglect by
6 the parent or guardian; (3) require the protection of a parent's or
7 guardian's constitutional rights, as afforded to persons charged with
8 criminal offenses, in any proceeding alleging child abuse or neglect by
9 the parent or guardian; (4) require the dismissal from employment of
10 any municipal or state employee found to have violated the
11 constitutional rights of a parent or guardian in any proceeding alleging
12 child abuse or neglect by the parent or guardian; and (5) ensure that
13 any such municipal or state employee not receive immunity.

Statement of Purpose:

To protect parents' and guardians' constitutional rights in child abuse and neglect cases.